

Maria Costa

Toronto, ON

Via E-mail

Bruce McCuaig, CEO
J. Robert, S. Prichard and Metrolinx Board of Directors

December 7, 2016

Dear Mr. Pritchard and Members of the Board,

**Re: Davenport Diamond Grade Separation
Board of Directors Meeting, Thursday December 8, 2016-12-07**

I am concerned about Metrolinx's plan for the 1.5 kilometre bridge that will be built literally steps away from my building.

Metrolinx has had several community meetings and while members of your team impress upon attendees the importance of connectivity, after each meeting I leave with the impression that "connectivity" means servicing other regions by being able to blast through Toronto to the mecca, Union Station and that this notion of connectivity does not include Torontonians.

I do see the benefit of increased service along the Barrie/Toronto corridor and understand the cost effectiveness of the bridge option but I grow frustrated that Metrolinx's focus is stubbornly fixated on the trains, tracks and outlying residents while Toronto residents are often ignored. Only after consistent pressure from community groups was a viable public realm built into the designs of this bridge. The residents are asking for a dedicated budget for this green space be determined and held in trust. It is a legitimate concern that if/when this project goes over budget the first area to be compromised will be this public realm and why not, it won't affect service and it won't affect train users merely the residents of Davenport. This is not acceptable to me; Davenport residents need more than lip service and Metrolinx asking us to trust you.

Davenport is a diverse neighbourhood and the residents have been committed to building this community. It has transitioned greatly from its former days as an industrial hub; *please* do not destroy this neighbourhood by not committing effort, resources and due diligence to this aspect of the project. Given this aspect short shrift could have disastrous effects on this blossoming neighbourhood resulting in depression and isolation of this area's businesses, schools, services and residents. Please do not leave us behind while you pursue your goal of connectivity.

Sincerely,

Maria Costa

CC: Kathleen Wynne, Steven Del Duca, Cristina Martins, Julie Dzerowicz, John Tory, Ana Bailao, Cesar Palacio